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Letter dated 13 May 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 29 February 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2008/140) and the letter dated 11 March 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council and its accompanying note (S/2008/175) concerning the processing of letters of credit pertaining to the oil-for-food programme.

I am pleased to inform you that the Working Group of representatives of the Government of Iraq, the Central Bank of Iraq and the Secretariat met in Amman from 1 to 5 May 2008, upon the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his above-mentioned letter. The Working Group reviewed the progress made in regard to the outstanding letters of credit and the processing of the authentication documents.

During the meeting of the Working Group, it was noted that the number of outstanding letters of credit had decreased and some progress had been made. In this regard, I have the honour to convey the suggestion of my Government that the deadline for providing the confirmations of arrival and resolving the disputes between the concerned ministries of Iraq and the sellers in the framework of the oil-for-food programme be extended to 30 June 2008 and that the situation be reviewed by the Working Group early in July on the basis of results achieved as of the proposed deadline.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq further suggests that the Secretariat provide a further progress report in July after the follow-up meeting of the Working Group.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq acknowledges the need to terminate the programme and all related issues; however, a proper termination is essential and will prevent future problems that may arise if the needed evaluation is not taken on a case-by-case basis. In this context, the Security Council may decide to defer its decision in this matter until after the meeting of the Working Group in July and to review the results of that meeting.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) T. Hamid **Al Bayati**
Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations

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